

Baker unfolds far-reaching school reform

Plans to introduce the biggest changes in schools for more than 40 years were outlined yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science...



Mr Baker: Power to lay down what pupils learn

Labour in early election offensive

The Labour Party is secretly preparing a new year offensive aimed at highlighting the Government's lack of credibility, trustworthiness and competence in the run up to the next general election.

Death triggers riots and looting Chirac appeals for halt to student clashes



M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, appealing for calm at his party's general meeting yesterday

From Diana Geddes, Paris M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, yesterday appealed for calm after three days of violent clashes between students and police in Paris had left one dead and scores injured.

McEvoy dealt a body blow Peter McEvoy... Mitchell plans... McEvoy dealt a body blow... Mitchell plans to... McEvoy dealt a body blow...

Tomorrow Oxbridge blues As Oxford play Cambridge at Twickenham tomorrow, we ask what's gone wrong with sport at the two universities which once produced world champions

Ryman poll threat to Militant choice

A Labour MP last night stepped up his threat to Mr Neil Kinnock to force a potentially embarrassing by-election after his constituency party chose an alleged supporter of Militant Tendency to fight the next general election.



Mr Ryman: "A victory for Militant and supporters"

Secret US arms cash is frozen MI6 chief in new spy book row

The Swiss Government yesterday confirmed that a secret numbered account had been frozen to allow inspection by American officials, of transactions in which arms payments from Iran are thought to have been passed on to the Contras guerrillas in Nicaragua.

Hospital halts drugs service

needed to advise family doctors of the new system. The plan has surprised the British Medical Association, and it was described as transferring a burden from the hospital to an already overloaded family practitioner service.

Sid takes a back seat on his big day

not be posted before December 15 and until these are received, new shareholders will have no formal evidence of ownership. Allocation tables will tell investors how many shares they have.

Apologetic Reagan 6 Conor Cruise O'Brien 12

Council aide involved in the transfer of Iranian arms money to the Contras, or by a third person acting on his behalf. The transfer, as well as other transactions involving funds emanating from Iran or elsewhere, did not, banking officials point out, contravene Swiss law.

Portfolio Gold

The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was won on Saturday by Mr J. Delorme of Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Details, page 3.

M&S warning on thefts

Marks and Spencer, the retail chain, has given a warning to its 56,000 employees not to steal, in an effort to reduce the estimated £50 million lost to theft every year.

Growth boost

Midland Bank's latest forecast confirms the Government's prediction of 3 per cent growth next year, boosted by lower oil prices and a more competitive pound.

Leaders firm on Anglo-Irish agreement

The Prime Minister and Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Taoiseach, have marked the anniversary of the Anglo-Irish agreement by renewing their commitment to it.

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Yacht drama

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Home News 2-5, Leaders 13, Overseas 6-8, Letters 14, Arts 14, Parliament 14, Births, deaths, marriages 14, Religion 14, Sale Room 14, Business 17-21, Science 15, Court 16, Sport 25-28, Crosswords 10, 16, TV & Radio 29, Diary 12, Weather 16, Events 10-12, Features 10-12, Wills 14, Law Report 21

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NEWS SUMMARY

Twins' parents start baby fund

The parents of the Siamese twins who died at the weekend have launched a trust fund for a special baby care unit at the Southmead Hospital, Bristol, where the girls were born last Wednesday.

Surgeons had told the parents there was no chance of successfully severing the babies, who were joined at the chest and shared the same heart and liver.

The unmarried Bristol couple are hoping to raise at least £8,000 for a new incubator for Southmead. A large proportion of that will come from publication of their story in a national newspaper.

Royal apartheid row

The Duke of Edinburgh has run into criticism over plans to present a trophy to a South African equestrian rider at a banquet in London on Wednesday.

The issue raises questions over whether the Royal Family is obliged to uphold the Gleneagles agreement which discourages sporting contacts with South Africa.

It has also emerged that the Duke ruled "unconstitutional" a move to expel South Africa last year from membership of the International Equestrian Federation, of which he is president.

Diners in gas attack Soldier strayed

Three hundred people were evacuated and 16 taken to hospital after two canisters of what was believed to be teargas were thrown into McDonald's restaurant in Leicester on Saturday.

Those taken to hospital were treated before being allowed home.

The case of a British soldier who apparently strayed across the border into the Irish Republic and was held by a farmer before being handed over to police, will be raised in the Irish parliament tomorrow.

The soldier was detained by police for five hours.

Governor line-up

The likelihood of the Prince of Wales becoming governor of Hong Kong was considered remote yesterday.

Dr David Wilson, aged 51 (right), assistant under secretary of state at the Foreign Office, is considered the front-runner.

Another possible choice is Sir Richard Evans, aged 58, British Ambassador to China.



Six face police quiz

Six people arrested and released on police bail by detectives hunting the killer of the woman whose torso was found in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, are to be interviewed again in the new year.

Three men and three women from addresses in Crawley, East Grinstead, and Horsham, West Sussex, have already been questioned about the disappearance of a Mrs Latifa Lazar, aged 26. Mrs Lazar, born in Morocco and the mother of a boy aged four, was living in Broadfield, Crawley, when she disappeared in the middle of August.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO GROVEL THIS CHRISTMAS?



A. Suck up to your rich uncle?



B. Toady round the boss?



C. Provide an extra pair of glasses so everyone can see what a lynch-pin you are?

ANSWER:

All of these are theme-lesly efficacious. But do it with a gift pack of Jannéau Very Old Armagnac Brandy.

You'll be crawling in style with brace of brandy glasses and Jannéau VSOP (complete) of lusciously smooth.

JANNEAU
Very Old Armagnac Brandy

For your nearest stockist, contact Jannéau, 183-185, Central St., London, EC1V 8DR. Tel 01 253 7646.



Royal Marine commandos from Bickleigh, Plymouth, setting a world speed marching record of four hours, 48 minutes—two hours faster than the previous record set by a United States army team—over a 26-mile course at Plymouth yesterday.

Boost to Alliance on voting reforms

Alliance hopes of a deal with the Conservatives on proportional representation in the event of a hung Parliament have been boosted by confirmation that Mr Douglas Hurd, a leading candidate to succeed Mrs Margaret Thatcher as party leader, favours reform of the voting system.

During a late-night debate in the Commons last week Mr David Alton, the Liberal chief whip, read out a letter he had received from Mr Hurd in which the Home Secretary said: "My views on the principle of electoral reform have never been a secret, but they are of course personal, and not shared by the Government as a whole or by a majority in the House of Commons."

The Alliance also believes that Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is sympathetic. The Alliance points out that he was one of a number of Conservative ministers who on a free vote in 1977 backed the regional list form of proportional representation for European elections.

Mr Alton has written to Mr Hurd to say that the European Parliament is soon to debate again the need for a common voting system for member countries.

In 1977 Mr Hurd argued the eventual need for proportional representation in European elections. The Treaty of Rome insists on a "uniform" voting procedure throughout Europe. Mr Alton has asked Mr Hurd "what the Government's intentions are in the event that the parliament once again recommends a uniform system of proportional representation?"

The Social Democratic Party yesterday targeted the young and upwardly mobile in its search for cash and campaign expertise (Nicholas Wood writes).

For £100 "supplies" can join the "marketing friends of the SDP" and meet Dr David Owen, the party leader.

Mr Simon Lewis, the party's head of communications, said that the new brains trust drawn from marketing, advertising and media professionals, will serve as a "sounding board for advice, ideas and feedback for Dr Owen, SDP MPs and parliamentary candidates". Cash raised would be put towards "converting opinion into votes".

Cabinet rift on using European rights pact in British law

The Government is divided over a private member's Bill being introduced into the Commons this week which seeks to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

While both the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General are said to be keen supporters of the move, the Prime Minister remains unconvinced and a number of senior ministers are privately voicing outright opposition.

Opponents of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill, to be introduced by Sir Edward Gardner, QC, Conservative MP for Fylde and chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, argue that it would inevitably lead to a clash between British judges and legislators and threaten the supremacy of Parliament.

Their fears were echoed last week by Lord McCluskey, a High Court judge and former Solicitor General for Scotland.

In his fifth Reith lecture, he questioned why "elderly lawyers with cautious and backward-looking habits of thought are qualified to overrule the judgements of democratically elected legislators".

But supporters of the measure insist that it would not only save the Government

from being dragged repeatedly through the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and suffering embarrassingly adverse rulings, but would allow British citizens who believed their rights had been infringed an immediate remedy in a British court rather than having to go through the delay and expense of going to Strasbourg.

The articles of the convention on human rights cover such basic rights as freedom of speech, privacy, family life and property.

Sir Edward, whose measure will be similar to a Bill sponsored by Lord Scarman which was passed in the last House of Lords session, has extensive all-party support in the Commons.

But without the backing of the Government, or, at worst, benevolent neutrality from ministers, Sir Edward will be hard pressed to get the Bill on to the statute-book.

He said: "British lawyers were largely responsible for drafting the convention and we have taken great pains to see that the convention could be relied upon by individual petitioners."

"Having done that we find the only way in which a British subject can take advantage of the convention is by going through the commission process which can take up to six or seven years and cost an inordinate amount of money."

But opponents say that the convention's incorporation into British law would result in a flood of applications to the courts, which British judges could have difficulty dealing with because they are used to interpreting tightly-drawn statutes rather than interpreting vague concepts such as the rights of family life.

But the main fear concerns the likely clash between the judiciary and Parliament.

One senior minister said: "If English courts were asked to say if there had been a violation of a person's rights under the convention, they would have to decide whether a particular Act of Parliament was unconstitutional or not."

"That would mean dragging the courts into the centre of the stage. In many cases the courts would actually have to make a political judgement."

Release of man held in Tehran demanded

The family of a British businessman being held without charge in an Iranian jail appealed for his release yesterday, a year after his detention began.

Mr Tim Eggar, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, will today call in Mr Akhavanadze Basti, the new Iranian charge d'affaires in London, to discuss the case of Mr Roger Cooper, aged 51. He will demand to know why Mr Cooper, a representative of McDermott, the British construction company, is still being held in Tehran.

Mr Cooper was arrested during a business trip last December. Since then his family have had only two letters from him. On Saturday, his former wife, who is Iranian, was allowed to pay him a brief visit. She said that he appeared physically well but understood that he was being kept in solitary confinement.

Dr Rosaleen Cooper, aged 92, his mother and the sister of the late Robert Graves, who lives at Bishopsteignton, South Devon, said yesterday: "We have no idea why he was arrested."

Mr Paul Cooper, the detained man's brother, said yesterday: "It is time the Government acted more forcefully."

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office yesterday said that it had made no progress in securing Mr Cooper's release.



Mr Roger Cooper, imprisoned in Iran.

Drug abuse

Addict loses teenage child

A girl aged 15 has been taken into care after she told her teachers that her mother was a heroin addict.

The Berkshire teenager was taking part in a discussion at school about drugs when she staggered her friends and teachers by declaring that her mother was addicted.

She has now been removed from her home and is to spend Christmas with foster parents.

Her parents have not been allowed to see their daughter since she was removed. The mother's doctor said that the woman, who cannot be named to protect the identity of her child, is a registered drug addict who has a loving relationship with the girl.

A temporary care order was imposed by magistrates last week. During the court hearing the mother was told that her daughter had been taken away on grounds of "moral danger" and for her personal safety.

Mr Bill Brack, chairman of Berkshire County Council social services committee, said the care order was only applied for after lengthy discussion.

Last week a Reading mother aged 30, who is addicted to the heroin substitute methadone, lost her battle to win back her baby daughter after she was born suffering from drug withdrawal symptoms and taken into care. The mother had taken her case to the House of Lords but the law lords ruled unanimously in favour of Berkshire County Council.

Rosie Johnston, who was jailed for nine months for supplying heroin to her childhood friend, Olivia Channon, was an idiot, but not wicked, her mother said yesterday.

Mrs Suzanna Johnston, a travel writer, of Shellingford Hall, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire, said her daughter should have received a suspended sentence after a death from drugs of Miss Channon, the daughter of Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Miss Channon, aged 22, died from an overdose of heroin mixed with alcohol after a party at Oxford.

On Friday at Oxford Crown Court, Miss Johnston, aged 23, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment after she admitted collecting heroin from a drugs pusher.

In our report on Saturday we incorrectly said that Miss Johnston had handed heroin to Miss Channon with the words: "There you are—celebrate". The court was told that those words were in fact spoken by Miss Channon to Miss Johnston.

Tebbit attacks Kinnock and Wright

Mr Norman Tebbit yesterday accused Mr Neil Kinnock's office of acting as "junior counsel" for the defence in the Australian spy-book case and charged Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, with having "ratted" on his friends.

Defending the Government's actions, the Conservative Party chairman concentrated his attack on the Labour Party leader, who is likely to receive a rough reception from Conservative MPs in the Commons this week on his return from the US.

Mr Tebbit said: "With Mr Kinnock and his escapades in America and his contacts with the lawyers appearing against the Crown in a foreign country, people have just got that feeling they would not want to trust any serious issue in his hands."

Speaking on TV-am, he said there was no evidence to show that the Government could have handled the Australian case much better.

Meanwhile in Leeds, Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Home Secretary, called on the Prime Minister to "come clean" about the affair, claiming she no longer had any grounds for using the case in Sydney as an excuse for silence.

In a separate move, Lord Donoghue, former policy adviser to the Wilson Labour Government, and Mr Peter Shore, shadow Leader of the Commons, called for an inquiry into the activities of MI5 against Mr Harold Wilson (now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx).

"The basic fact of the story, whether or not MI5 did mount an operation against the Government of the day, and the Prime Minister of the day, is so scandalous and so shocking that quite clearly we have to get to the root of the matter," Mr Shore said on BBC's *This Week, Next Week* programme.

The sale of British submarine lifting equipment to Libya did not breach the Government's ban on military gear to Colonel Gaddafi's regime, the Department of Trade said yesterday.

Components for the "Synchro-lift" left Glasgow last month.

The department said that Britain still had normal commercial trade with Libya, and the machinery had civilian and industrial functions.

The manufacturers, Newcastle-based Northern Engineering Industries, did not need an export licence.

Britain and Russians join forces on Aids

British and Russian scientists have started working together on research into the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids), which could lead to earlier detection of the disease and to advances in control of the global epidemic.

The project is part of an agreement reached between Britain and the Soviet Union 10 days ago to improve collaboration on medical research and public health programmes.

The Aids project will involve leading virologists in Moscow and is one of the clearest indications so far that Aids has become a serious problem in the Soviet Union. Moscow has played down the impact of the disease so far, and has only acknowledged a few cases.

The joint work on Aids will include study of the relationship between infection by the virus and production of antibodies by the human immune system. The scientists will examine the molecular structure of different strains of the virus and study methods of detecting antibodies among infected patients and blood donors.

Part of the project will be to investigate the accuracy of antibody tests as a means of epidemic control. Mr Viktor Zhdanov, director of the Ivanovsky Institute of Virology in Moscow, who has been leading the country's Aids research, will co-ordinate the joint study.

Britain's contribution to the project will involve the Central Public Health Laboratory service at Colindale, north London. Under the terms of the agreement, British and Russian specialists will be able to visit each other and exchange biological samples, medical papers and pharmaceutical preparations.

The agreement will also lead to joint research into various forms of cancer, including breast cancer.

Zimbabwe alert, page 6

Cons... for... sue fi...
Adver... sought...
Fewer... women... the top...
Rest-...

Caution on offenders' work with children

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Social workers want to see the right to use their powers to restrict offenders' work with young children. A report published by the Home Office last week says that the government should consider whether it should have the power to restrict offenders' work with children. The report, which was prepared by a committee of social workers and magistrates, says that the current law is inadequate and that the government should consider whether it should have the power to restrict offenders' work with children. The report also says that the government should consider whether it should have the power to restrict offenders' work with children.

Consumer bodies fight for victims' right to sue firms for damages

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A tough battle starts today between the consumer lobby and British industry over government proposals which, it is claimed, will make it harder for victims of air crashes or drugs such as thalidomide to sue for damages.

The proposals are contained in the Consumer Protection Bill, which comes before the Lords for a second reading.

The Bill aims to tighten consumer law by making manufacturers strictly liable for damage caused by defects in their products, without the burden and cost of the victim having to prove negligence in the courts as now.

But at the same time the Bill contains a legal defence for manufacturers which consumer groups led by the Consumers' Association, believe could leave victims without compensation.

Manufacturers will be able to rely on the so-called "development risks" defence to avoid liability, claiming that the state of scientific and technical knowledge at the time the product was marketed was such that the defect could not have been discovered.

Mr David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, said: "What the law gives with one hand it takes away with the other. It reintroduces negligence by the back door for design defects."

A full-scale attack on that defence, which has been described by the National Consumer Council as a "huge black hole" in the law, will be made today by Lord Allen of Abbeyleigh.

Lord Allen was a member of the 1978 Pearson Royal Commission on civil liability and compensation for personal injury, which urged unanimously there should be no "development risks" defence.

That commission was set up in the wake of the thalidomide tragedy, he said, "but under these new proposals it is still possible for a thalidomide disaster to happen again".

There was some improvement in that the burden of proof had been shifted and manufacturers had to show that they were not negligent. "It is still extremely difficult for an individual citizen up against the might of a big manufacturer to obtain compensation; it is not a contest between equals," he said.

As well as the Pearson commission, the defence is opposed by the Law Commission of England and Scotland, the Council of Europe, the Law Society and the TUC.

But it is supported on the other side by the Confederation of British Industry, which dismisses the consumer lobby's claims as "pie in the sky".

The CBI said that "in a world where someone has to pay for compensation and there is no state compensation scheme, these proposals are unrealistic".

Its objections are threefold. First, it says it is not fair that manufacturers should have to pay for risks no one could have detected. They were fully prepared, however, to take responsibility for design defects or faults.

Second, without the defence, insurance cover in high-risk areas such as aerospace and the drugs industry would be impossible to obtain. Premiums were already excessively high and cover had been drastically reduced.

Third, innovative research would be inhibited without the defence. In the United States, some companies had already started retreating from research in areas such as vaccines.

The consumer lobby will contest all those points. It says that research has shown insurers will pay even without the defence, and that experience from countries such as France, which has strict liability, do not bear out claims that research will be inhibited.

Adverts freedom sought by lawyers

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors will be able to advertise in supermarkets, rail stations and on street hoardings, as well as on T-shirts, pens and badges, under a proposed overhaul of their practice rules published today.

They will also have freedom to set up non-solicitor businesses offering facilities for clients such as computer consultancy; and to make arrangements with third parties such as estate agents or building societies for clients to be introduced.

In addition they will be able to market a "package of services" such as conveyancing together with members of other professions, and to be employed by non-solicitors to do legal work for the public, other than conveyancing, probate, and litigation, which are barred by statute.

The proposals, which would radically change the way the profession presents its services come before the Law Society Council for debate on Thursday.

The aim is to make solicitors more competitive. The

working party on practice rules says that its proposals may appear to some as "radical and even revolutionary".

But it adds: "The ability to compete commercially is not an option for the profession - it is a necessity".

The proposals on advertising mark a complete shift in emphasis so that almost all advertising will be allowed rather than only very limited advertising as now.

The proposed new publicity code allows advertising on television, by direct mail, on other premises such as hoardings and billboards, in estate-agents' windows, and on "movable objects" such as pens and calendars.

There has been demand from solicitors to be able to advertise in railway stations, on street hoardings, in supermarkets, and libraries, the working party says.

If adopted on Thursday by the council, the draft rules will go before the Master of the Rolls for approval. If approved, they will come into force on February 1 next year.

Fewer women at the top

Business is still a man's world, with few women battling their way into the top jobs, according to the Institute of Directors.

Launching the 1986 businesswoman of the year award, the institute said the outlook for women remained gloomy. Past winners of the award have included Miss Anita Roddick, of the Body Shop, and Miss Debbie Moore, of the Pincapple dance studios, but their success has not been a springboard for others.

The institute said that there were only nine women on the boards of Britain's top 100 companies, and that the numbers in senior management had actually fallen in the past 10 years.

In 1975, 9.7 per cent of full-time positions in senior management were held down by women, but by 1985 the figure had fallen to 6.2 per cent, it said.

The number of women members of the institute has risen by 51 per cent in two years.

Tories woo Asian and black women

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The Conservative Party is launching a campaign to attract more Asian and black women into active politics.

The two groups will be invited to separate conferences in London next spring in an exercise similar to those aimed at younger women and "high-flyers" this year.

Miss Emma Nicholson, vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, described the two conferences as part of her task to broaden the membership of the Conservative women's organization. The campaign has the full backing of Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The theme of the Asian women's conference in March will be health, with an address by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services. The black women's conference in April will concentrate on education.

Miss Nicholson said there was no plan to set up separate "black" sections, which have caused such friction within the Labour Party.

"I am personally colour blind. Separate sections would be negating the exercise. I see no purpose in creating artificial divisions which may be unreal and unhelpful," she said.

Miss Nicholson, who will stand for the safe Conservative seat of Devon West and Torridge at the next general election, said the aim was to encourage more Asian and black women into the mainstream of public life. The greatest care was being taken to reach a cross-section and to ensure all religions were represented.

"We certainly need more Asian and black women. As with the younger women and the high-flyers, the aim is to bring an awareness into these women's lives of the fascination of politics and the satisfaction that can be gained from public service," she said.

In spite of stirring speeches by black women at recent party conferences there are few on the candidate lists of any political party.

Rest-room hitch for Boeing

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Airlines buying the new long-range Boeing 747-400 jumbo jet may have to build a flying "dormitory" in its roof for the crew.

The 747-400 can fly non-stop for 8,000 miles, which means it could be in the air for 16 hours or more.

Under international regulations no member of the crew is allowed to remain on duty for that long, so the only alternative is to carry a spare crew who can sleep when not on duty and be ready to take over

from the first crew in mid-flight.

British Airways has signed for 16 of the new jets with a further 12 options and they are due to come into service in 1989.

So far no decision has been taken about crewing. Normally the aircraft is flown by just two pilots; a flight engineer is no longer required.

But with the enormous distances which can be covered by the aircraft it is likely that no fewer than five

pilots will be needed to ensure a smooth handover and keep at least two pilots at the controls at any one time.

Boeing is working on proposals for fitting bunks or sleeper seats in the roof space near the tail of the jet.

The crew would climb into the space up a ladder and then either have seats or bunks on which to rest while off duty.

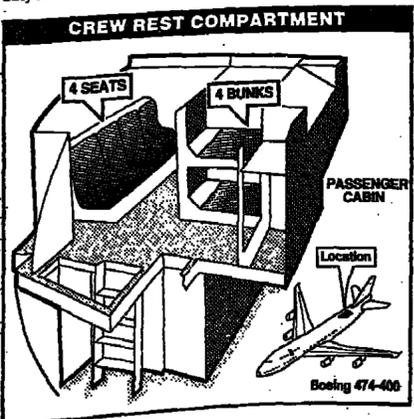
It is unlikely that more than eight could be accommodated at any one time.

As the jumbo normally carries 11 cabin staff and two pilots several passenger seats may also have to be blocked off.

Under existing international regulations the maximum time a pilot can be on duty - counted from the time he reports and not from the time he takes off - is 14 hours and the maximum a stewardess can be on duty is 15 hours.

"The delivery of the aircraft is still a long way off and we must first wait to see what the CAA says concerning any changes to the rules on very long distance crewing before we can make up our mind what we will do in detail," BA said.

Should it decide to take Boeing's "dormitory" option it might then be faced with having to decide how to split the bunks between male and female members.



Mrs Bridget Murray, aged 71, getting expert guidance at the Royal Ballet School in London yesterday as part of Aid For Africa Dance Week.

Pensioners going for good grades

More pensioners are going back to school to take O and A level examinations and many are doing extraordinarily well, according to one of Britain's principal examining bodies (Angela Johnson writes).

Mr John Day, secretary general of the board, said: "The biological details of the candidates are extremely interesting. For example, one man aged 70 first started work

as an assistant projectionist in a cinema showing silent films and his weekly wage was 23p per week. Family circumstances meant lack of opportunity.

"It is encouraging to think that this opportunity is now available and that the challenge is being taken by so many in similar circumstances."

(Photograph: Res Drinkwater).

AFTER 46 MILLION LETTERS A DAY, HERE'S ONE FROM US...

Dear Customer,

First of all thank you for our busiest year ever.

Recently we've been handling some 46 million letters a day - even before the Christmas rush.

That's up more than 4 million letters a day on last year, and the most ever in our 350-year history.

So it's a stretching task, and it's going to get bigger.

With a record Christmas post predicted, and all those extra letters from Sid and his pals, we'll be handling 120 million letters and cards a day in mid-December.

Why so many letters? Well, we have kept prices down well below inflation - our inland prices are down about 11½% in real terms over 5 years. Even letters to the Continent, to our friends in the EEC, are cheaper.

And we've offered you a Christmas Box of 300 million stamps at a discounted price of at least 1p off.

Now, please help us help you. POST EARLY! You'll probably get even more cards in return.

Seasons Greetings,



The Post Office

BRITISH GAS SHARE OFFER.

BASIS OF ALLOCATION.

Four and a half million applications for British Gas shares have been received.

Taking into account applications received in joint names, five million people now own shares in this major British company.

We are delighted with the success of the issue. The U.K. public offer has been four times subscribed.

Everyone who submitted a valid application will receive an allocation of shares. All those who made valid applications for 400 shares or less will receive their application in full.

But because demand for shares was so great, most other applications will be scaled down.

The table alongside sets out the allocations.

All British Gas employees and pensioners who submitted a valid priority application will also receive shares, although some applications have been scaled down.

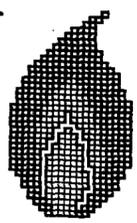
On Monday, 15th December letters will be posted setting out the number of shares you have

Number of shares applied for	Number of shares allocated	
	General Public application	Customer Share Scheme application (green form)
100	100	100
200	200	200
300	300	300
400	400	400
500-700	400	500
800-1,000	500	600
1,500	600	800
2,000	800	1,000
2,500	1,000	1,200
3,000-5,000	1,200	1,400
6,000-10,000	1,400	1,600
15,000-100,000	10%	10% plus 300
150,000 or over	7%	7% plus 300

been allocated. If this is less than the number applied for, a refund will be enclosed.

Dealings in the shares are due to begin on The Stock Exchange at 2.30 p.m. this afternoon Monday, 8th December.

If you deal before you receive a letter of acceptance you do so at your own risk.



British Gas
— SHARE —
INFORMATION
— OFFICE —

Handwritten Arabic text: ٥٠٠٠٠٠٠

Hooded gunmen shoot civilians as Lebanon's war of camps drags on

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Chouaifat, Lebanon

War had begun to become a distant affair for the people of this village of stone houses and orchards straggling up the Druze-controlled hills south-east of Beirut. From their flower-decked balconies residents could watch without risk the flashes of explosions and the pillars of smoke rising from the Chatilla and Bourj el-Barajneh Palestinian refugee camps.

Things changed suddenly on Thursday night. While Palestinian guerrillas and Shia Muslim Amal forces fought savage battles a few miles away, hooded gunmen stormed the small house of a Palestinian family and killed six people in a hail of automatic gunfire. Four women and two children died as they watched television.

Mrs Hayat Abdul Raouf, aged 21, one of three people who survived by hiding in the kitchen, said that she heard one gunman shout as he fired: "See your children die..."

PLO spokesmen in Beirut accused Amal of the "new massacres" and Amal, which claims it has strict orders to protect Palestinian civilians, blamed "Israeli agents" seeking to provoke more violence.

There was also speculation here that the attack sought to

draw the Druze militia into the fighting.

"No one really knows who did it, and no one ever will," a Druze doctor said.

As the "war of the camps" drags on in a sequence of ceasefire agreements and fresh battles in Beirut, the hills east of Sidon and in the outskirts of Tyre, the conflict is spreading in a sordid, brutal way that illustrates how hatred is again running out of control in Lebanon.

There are reports of kid-

The Palestine Liberation Organization will seek Arab guarantees ensuring an end to the "camps war" in Lebanon at an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers today (Reuters reports from Tunis).

nappings and killings of civilians by both sides that are virtually impossible to verify. The only evidence are the gunshot-riddled bodies that are found in streets and roads.

The situation inside Beirut's camps remains a riddle, since radio communication stopped a few days ago.

The hospital in Chatilla is said to have been hit, but is still functioning. According to Palestinian sources, the number of wounded treated there is 167.

Reliable sources say that at least 44 houses owned by Palestinians have been set on fire or razed near the refugee camps of el-Buss and Bourj el-Shehail, near Tyre, in the past two weeks.

The sources estimate that Amal has arrested nearly 800 Palestinian men from those camps and from Rashidiyeh, which has been under Amal siege for over two months.

One relief worker said that in some cases the arrests "saved lives" by preventing Palestinians from being captured by gangs of merciless Amal militiamen. Amal, according to that source, is "genuinely embarrassed by some excesses committed by unruly elements, but there is little it can do".

Another source said: "Leaders on both sides have long lost control over their own men. Since the war has touched so many families in the refugee camps and in almost every Shia Muslim village of southern Lebanon, there are increasing numbers of shabab (boys) with Kalashnikovs eager to settle scores in personal vendettas."

Attempts by Syria to end a war which has already claimed nearly 550 lives in nine weeks have collapsed one after another.

Ireland to reconsider presence in Unifil

By Our Foreign Staff

Ireland's Defence Minister, Mr Paddy O'Toole, said yesterday that the Government in Dublin would have to look "very seriously" at its involvement in the UN's Lebanon peacekeeping force after the death there yesterday of an Irish soldier.

William O'Brien, aged 25, was killed while on checkpoint duty. He was the 20th member of the Irish contingent to die in Lebanon.

Private O'Brien died after machine-gun fire was aimed at his position from a location controlled by a militia group that has Israeli backing.

The incident prompted an overnight protest to the Israeli authorities by the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr Peter Barry, who highlighted the "profound concern" in Dublin over what had happened.

Mr O'Toole, who is due to make a pre-Christmas visit to Lebanon this week, said the main problem facing Irish troops was that they were unable to carry out their mandate because Israel continued to occupy a part of the Lebanon.

He said: "If at any time we feel the risk to our troops is such that it is unwarranted to be there, we would have no hesitation in withdrawing, but it would be done in consultation with the United Nations authorities."



A Palestinian adjusting his 120 mm mortar outside Sidon during the latest Iran-sponsored ceasefire between the Shia Muslim Amal militia and Palestinian guerrillas.

Violence in Malta brings a warning

From Austin Sammut, Malta

Malta's opposition Nationalist Party has blamed pro-government Socialist supporters for the killing of one of its supporters on Friday night.

The leader of the Opposition, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, said his party was determined to see that justice was done, and declared that, if the responsible authorities did not see to this, Malta would "plunge over the precipice."

Thousands of people took part in the funeral yesterday of Raymond Garuana, aged 25, who was killed when the Nationalist Party club in the village of Gudja was hit by machine-gun fire from a passing car. No incidents were reported at the funeral.

The killing was condemned by the Cabinet at an emergency meeting on Saturday. The ruling Malta Labour Party also condemned it, as did the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr Joseph Mercieca.

This is the first political murder in Maltese history and comes at a time of unprecedented violence. On November 30 street clashes between government and Nationalist supporters left many people injured.

The following day another Nationalist Party club, which was closed at the time, came under machine-gun fire.

Israel unrest spreads

Tear gas used to scatter students

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Unrest continued throughout the West Bank during the weekend, spreading yesterday to the campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where police fired tear gas to disperse opposing demonstrations by Arab and Jewish students.

Three students were taken to hospital after the gas attack, provoking a strong protest from the Students' Association at the unprecedented use of tear gas on the campus. A university spokesman said the police were called in after security staff on the campus feared that the protest might become violent.

Similar demonstrations at the Haifa and Tel Aviv universities, also called to protest about the killing by Israeli security forces of two Palestinian students at Bir Zeit University last Thursday, passed off without incident.

The Bir Zeit killings have sparked off a wave of violence on a scale not known in the occupied territories for at least five years. No further deaths have been reported since the killing of a Palestinian boy, aged 14, at Balata refugee camp near Nablus on Friday.

Two Israeli buses were stoned in east Jerusalem yesterday morning and the driver of one was hurt by flying glass.

The situation in the occupied territories was discussed yesterday at the weekly Cabinet meeting.

Herrero set to take Fraga role

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Miguel Herrero de Miñón, a constitutional lawyer from Madrid, has been given the chance to succeed Señor Manuel Fraga, who stepped down last week as leader of Spain's conservatives.

He is expected to be elected leader of the parliamentary party of the Popular Alliance tomorrow, which would automatically make him leader of the Opposition.

The party, made up of former supporters of the Franco regime and more modern-minded conservative elements, declined, however, at a two-day meeting of the leadership at the weekend to rush the fundamental decision about who will lead the challenge to the ruling Socialists in the 1990 general election.

Señor Herrero, aged 46, who has been one of the principal Popular Alliance figures in Parliament, thanks to his debating skill, only holds the post of executive deputy party chairman until a special conference, due some time before the end of March, settles the leadership issue.

Señor Gerardo Fernández, Chief Minister in Galicia, will continue until then as the interim party chairman.

One inevitable consequence of Señor Fraga's stepping down is the enhancement of the chances in the 1990 election of Señor Adolfo Suárez, formerly leader of the Centre Democratic Union, which began to disintegrate before the 1982 election, and now leading a new centre party.

Señor Herrero, once a Centre Democratic Union member, could thus find himself in electoral rivalry with his old leader.

Jaruzelski finds job for critics

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, has appointed an advisory council, including several dozen critics of the authorities, in an attempt at an experiment in loyal opposition.

Almost 60 people were nominated to the council, including academics, economists, government advisers, Roman Catholics and Mr Wladyslaw Sila-Nowicki, former adviser to Solidarity.

The council is an acid test of General Jaruzelski's strategy, which began in September with an amnesty to widen the Government's political base.

The idea has three elements. First, it provides a safety valve for discontent at a time when prices are again set to rise and yet more economic austerity measures are on the way. Second, it is an attempt to split the opposition into "realists" — those who will talk to the authorities — and "extremists" who are henceforth confined to the political stratosphere.

Finally, it is hoped the council may lure the United States into accepting that there is a dialogue between the leaders and the led in Poland and convince the Administration to lift economic sanctions against Warsaw.

However, most prominent Catholic intellectuals asked to join the group refused, maintaining that the authorities had failed to ensure its independence.

There is a notable absence of workers on the council. The only well-known Solidarity activist was Mr Jan Kulaj, the former leader of Rural Solidarity, the outlawed independent farmers' union. Most Solidarity leaders regard Mr Kulaj as a rather compromised figure.

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South African press controls

Journalists face tighter restrictions and self-censorship demand

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's press appears to be fighting a losing battle to ward off further curbs on its already severely curtailed freedom. Political and civil rights activists say they fear that a harsh new clampdown on opposition to the Government is imminent. Editors and executives of the main newspapers are to meet today, according to a prepared press source, to prepare for a crucial encounter tomorrow with a Cabinet committee headed by Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning. Pretoria is expected to press at that meeting for agreement on a stringent code of self-censorship, with the implied threat that, if this "voluntary" approach is rejected, the Government will itself impose even harsher measures. Journalists' unions and opposition and civil rights groups are already accusing newspaper managements of having capitulated cravenly to the Government, but the press owners say that they are fighting a desperate rearguard action to preserve as much freedom as possible in difficult times. Under the headline "Closer to tyranny", a rare front-page comment in bold type in The Sunday Star of Johannesburg declared yesterday that "the press is fighting for its life", and called on "all citizens to be vocal and visible about their rights in coming weeks". The press, including foreign newspapers, radio and television based here, has been operating under severe restraint, particularly in its reporting of civil unrest and police action, since a state of emergency was declared on June 12. But it appears that the Government wants still tighter control. One theory is that having tamed the Newspaper Press Union (NPU), which represents the four established English and Afrikaans newspaper groups, the Government will move to close down what is sometimes called the "alternative press", which operates independently. Among probable targets are The New Nation, a fortnightly paper mainly written by and for blacks and funded by the Catholic Church, and the liberal Weekly Mail, which was started by journalists made redundant when the Rand Daily Mail was closed by its owners last year. It is also thought that action might be taken against papers like Die Afrikaan and Die Patriot, propaganda mouthpieces for extreme right-wing white political parties which have been gaining ground since the Government embarked on its cautious dismantling of parts of the apartheid apparatus. According to informed sources, the NPU is trying to appease the Government by agreeing to some stiffening of the disciplinary procedures of the Media Council, which is fairly toothless. Whether this will satisfy Pretoria remains to be seen. In a statement at the weekend, the United Democratic Front (UDF), the most radical of extra-parliamentary opposition movements still operating above ground, claimed that the move against the press was "a preparation for a massive clampdown... during the weeks preceding". The UDF claimed to have information that "a nationwide snoop is on the cards for December 9", supposedly in a move to preempt black unrest on and around December 16, when white Afrikaners annually celebrate victory over the Zulus at the 1838 Battle of Blood River. The Black Sash, the 30-year-old civil rights group run by white women, in a statement which it said might well be its last, accused the press of "acquiescing to tyranny without protest" and of agreeing to censor itself "in the cause of continued white racial domination". The statement said: "We do not know if ever again within South Africa will publicly condemn the totalitarian rule that has so rapidly enveloped this country in the last few months and that will reach its zenith with the total co-optation and annihilation of the already fragile concept of a free press in South Africa."



Mr Antonio Zamel, the communist negotiator, at a Manila rally, and President Aquino registering at a polling centre.

Communists seek arms assurance from Aquino

Manila (Reuters) - Communist rebel envoys yesterday asked President Aquino to order the Philippines armed forces not to disarm guerrillas during a 60-day ceasefire expected to come into effect on Wednesday. Mr Antonio Zamel, a rebel negotiator, said he and another emissary, Mr Sator Ocampo, had written to President Aquino asking her to order soldiers to abide by the agreement, which was signed on November 27 and promises a two-month truce to enable the Government and rebels to negotiate an end to the 17-year communist insurgency. "We appealed to President Aquino to order the armed forces to abide by the ceasefire agreement," Mr Zamel said. "We are afraid that, if the military disarms the rebel forces, it may start the shooting. The rebel forces are under strict orders to observe the ceasefire. But they are also under orders not to lay down their arms." Mr Zamel said he and Mr Ocampo had agreed to allow the military to conduct security patrols against common criminals, but that the accord did not include disarming rebels. The armed forces' chief, General Fidel Ramos, said the military patrols would protect people and property, and a Military Command spokesman, Colonel Honesto Isleta, said the armed forces would disarm rebels.

Malaysia amends secrets Act

From M.G.G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

After eight months of public debate, the Parliament here amended over the weekend the country's controversial Official Secrets Act. The law now defines what an official secret is and the courts can no longer question, as they could under the previous legislation, the official reasoning for it. It removes the discretionary powers of the judges and imposes a mandatory jail sentence of between one and 14 years on conviction. The law now provides for three broad categories of official secrets, instead of seven as in the draft version. But even many government backbenchers and some Cabinet ministers are concerned at the scope and impact of the new law, especially the uncontrolled administrative powers of Cabinet ministers and some officials to create new categories of secrets without further parliamentary approval. The Government wanted to rush through the legislation on Friday, the day it had provided for debate, but the session had to be extended. It lasted more than seven hours. That Parliament would pass the amendments was a foregone conclusion. The Government has an 80 per cent majority in the 177-seat Parliament.

New Taiwan party wins 23 seats

Shock for the Kuomintang

From Robert Grieves, Hong Kong. Taiwan's "unofficial" Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has won 23 of the 44 legislative seats it contested, two months after being formed - a much stronger showing than analysts predicted. There were 306 candidates for the 157 seats in the Yuan, Taiwan's parliament, and in the National Assembly, which elects a President every six years. The ruling Kuomintang party won 127 seats and opposition candidates outside the DPP took seven. Computer tallies of the votes were not issued until after midnight on Saturday, after more than eight million of the 11.8 million voters went to the polls, with particularly strong showings in Taipei and Kaohsiung. Many analysts had expected the DPP to make a poor showing because of its leaders' lack of control in trying to discipline radical elements who advocated Taiwan's complete independence and the overthrow of the Kuomintang, which has ruled the island for 37 years. The two unsuccessful attempts to return to the island by Mr Hsu Hsin-liang, a radical dissident who fled to the United States in 1979 and who faces sedition charges on Taiwan, also convinced many observers that the DPP would not exist long as a viable opposition party. However, a veteran observer of the island's politics said: "Their victories on Saturday show that the Taiwanese opposition movement is still alive." Other analysts contend that the DPP gains, while impressive, do not signal a clear victory for the new party. According to this view, the DPP voters will be enough to make Kuomintang conservatives attempt to block any further returns that President Chiang Ching-quo may be contemplating, without giving much real power to the DPP. Western observers said last week that, given any sign of DPP strength as a result of the elections, conservative elements in the ruling party would try to obstruct Mr Chiang's proposal to lift martial law early next year. Even with the gain of 23 legislative seats, the numbers still favour the Kuomintang in all government legislative bodies. The DPP is said to have only 1,500 members, while the Kuomintang has 2.4 million. But according to conventional wisdom on the island, 50 per cent of all votes in each election are against Kuomintang policies. The opposition parties, and in particular the DPP, hope to turn that dissatisfaction into support and to expand on it. Because 85 per cent of Taiwan's 19 million people are native Taiwanese, radical elements in the DPP have tried to use the independence issue to recruit new supporters. But conservative elements in the new party oppose that plan, because that it would force the Kuomintang to suppress the party.

Inkatha blamed for killings

Johannesburg - The deaths of two black trade unionists and the daughter of a third, who were murdered after being abducted from their homes near Howick, in Natal, were blamed yesterday on supporters of Inkatha, the conservative political organization led by Chief Gatsha Buthezi (Michael Hornsby writes). They were abducted on Friday night and taken to a remote spot, where they were shot dead. Their bodies were then put in a car which was set alight. The Metal and Allied Workers' Union (MAWU), to which the murder victims belonged, alleged that the armed gang responsible were members or supporters of Inkatha. The Government's Bureau of Information said an investigation into the killings was under way and that "false speculation, rumour-mongering and judgment about this serious incident are both premature and irresponsible". MAWU officials identified two of the deceased as Mr Phineas Sibiba, chairman of the shop stewards' committee at the BTR Sarmcol factory at Howick, a British subsidiary, and Mr Simon Ngunane, another shop steward at the factory. The daughter of a BTR Sarmcol employee, Miss Florah Mnikathi, was also killed, according to MAWU. Mr Michael Sibiba, a brother of Mr Phineas Sibiba, reportedly managed to escape by rolling down a bank. Mr Phineas Sibiba was the leader of the 900 or so workers sacked by BTR Sarmcol last year after a strike in support of a dispute over boycott of the mine shebeen (liquor store) which was opposed by some of the miners.

Thai fury as Hanoi holds fishermen

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok. He said in Bangkok that Hanoi refused to say anything about the men, who are accused of illegal fishing. The Thais have not been put on trial but have been held awaiting payment of fines. Thai officials describe it as a hostage situation, with the Vietnamese cashing in on the prisoners, and Vietnam's Ambassador in Bangkok collected \$500,000 before the men were freed last week. Officials and political commentators say that the incident will impede attempts to improve relations.

Fantasy game link in boy's murder

Watertown, New York (AP) - A 11-year-old boy has been sentenced to 5 1/2 years to life in prison for killing an 11-year-old in a murder that the authorities linked to the game Dungeons and Dragons. David Ventiquattro told police that he killed Martin Howland because the younger boy was evil and the game required that he "had to extinguish evil". But Ventiquattro also said that Martin had shot himself and also that he had shot Martin accidentally while playing with a gun he did not know was loaded. Dungeons and Dragons is a fantasy adventure game about the struggle between good and evil, and its critics claim that players become obsessed with the game and act out violent fantasies.

Manhunt ends in hostage flat

New York (Reuters) - Larry Davis, aged 20, suspected of shooting six policemen, has surrendered to police and is being held without bail charged with six counts of attempted murder after one of New York's biggest manhunts lasting 17 days. Police caught up with him in a flat where he was holding three people hostage. He threatened to throw himself out of a window, but police persuaded him to give himself up.

Cafe arrest of fugitive

Milan (AFP) - A Red Brigades militant, Calogero Diana, was arrested at a Chinese restaurant here early yesterday, three months after he escaped from a high-security prison near Turin in September. He was serving a life sentence since last year for murdering a warden in 1978 and a deputy police chief in 1979, but escaped while in hospital after a hunger strike.

MPs on tour

Abu Dhabi (Reuters) - A group of eight British MPs led by Mr Julian Amery yesterday met the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan al-Nahayan.

Kuwait trial

Kuwait (Reuters) - Five Jordanians go on trial today accused of killing 10 people and injuring more than 80 in last year's bombings of two crowded Kuwait cafes.

Unicef grant

Peking (Reuters) - The United Nations Children's Education Fund will grant China \$36 million for 38 projects for children.

Teachers' pets

Harare (AP) - The Zimbabwe Government dismissed 17 teachers from state schools last year, most of them for having love affairs with their pupils.

ENTERTAINMENTS

A large grid of entertainment listings for various theatres and venues. Each listing includes the name of the production, the venue, and showtimes. Examples include 'The Wind in the Willows' at the National Theatre, 'The Hit Musical' at the Lyric Theatre, and 'The Women' at the Theatre of Comedy. The listings are organized by venue and include details such as cast members and ticket prices.

THE ARTS

From bed to worse

The audience figures for Saturday Review (BBC2) have gone through the floor, and small wonder: the format is dreary, the material obvious, and good ideas go begging.

TELEVISION

blaze down at Blackwall Fire Station seemed to have been scented from a sit-com of unknown provenance. They had only to tuck in to beef curry and thinned apricots for the alarm bell to ring; they had only to hunker down round a blue video for their new female colleague to snub in.

Martin Cropper

Last week's visit to Moscow by the London Sinfonietta was the first by a British orchestra since 1974. Paul Griffith reports

Beginning of the end of the ice age?

Apparently it can be shown by computation that tit-for-tat is the best strategy for a game that keeps both sides in balance. So perhaps one should not be too depressed that the London Sinfonietta's visit to Moscow last week was an occasion for diplomacy at the prep school level.



To Russia, with hope: Oliver Knussen stretches out in the Moscow Conservatoire before the opening concert

Instead those facilities were provided by the British Embassy, but only — these being the rules of the game — under conditions where they were minimally effective. A Press

conference was called — but at the embassy, inside which everyone knows full well no Soviet citizen is going to be allowed to set foot.

Under the circumstances, and given that no report will appear in Pravda for a week, it is difficult to know what the Moscow audience made of the Sinfonietta's two programmes. I thought the reception of the first was coolly polite, but there was no doubt about the close attention and warm response given to the second concert.

On the first night, in the Great Hall of the conservatory, the players had seemed tired and uncertain; and the biggest work, Henze's *Le Miracle de la rose*, must surely have meant little when the programme note compressed the lavish heroic plot into a couple of po-faced sentences.

give it drive: it was an excessively daring piece with which to start. Takemitsu's *Rain Coming* appeared more to puzzle than delight the audience with its prettiness, but Nigel Osborne's *Zanna* made an impression.

The other evening had a much more coherent identity. Here the main work was Birtwistle's *Secret Theatre*, which worked its half-hour spell of ticking and chanting fascination over a rapt audience. It was sympathetically contained between Varnae and the somewhat better-known Stravinsky, with Simon Benning's *Concertino in moto perpetuo* as a beautiful and witty sidestep into minimalism with a human face.

We had been promised a sell-out in the cavernous Tchaikovsky Hall: in fact the auditorium was about a third empty (though I had been unable to find any tickets displayed at the kiosks about the city). Nevertheless, the exuberant applause must have speeded the Sinfonietta on their way to further concerts in the Baltic states.

One must also hope that it will, together with the excellent, refreshingly un-hidebound and eager work being done here by the British Council and in Moscow by others of good will, help raise the temperature of cultural exchange.

ROCK

Eurythmics Wembley Arena

As the volume rose by degrees during a long guitar solo in "Here Comes The Rain Again" and throbbing red lights played across a back drop of moving clouds, it occurred to me that Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart always wanted to be in a good old-fashioned rock band.

Clem Burke's curious robotic drumming style made him indistinguishable from a sloppily programmed drum machine, but there were virtuoso bass and harmonica solos and no shortage of Stewart's backpedal guitar playing. An acoustic guitar version of "Who's That Girl" and a reggae arrangement of "Right By Your Side" were the only songs to escape the minor but at least the show was direct and to the point, with none of the "we're an arty duo" nonsense that used to ring hollow.

David Sinclair

Balancing the best of two worlds

Being a film star has made Tom Conti — soon to be seen again on the London stage — wealthy enough to be an actor



Conti: 'There's an awful lot of bunkum talked about acting'

Construction, a good clear storyline, old-fashioned craftsmanship — these are all high on Tom Conti's list when in theatre or cinema. If he's in the audience and finds them lacking, he usually walks out. "Yup, I do leave these days," he says. "I've even sat in packed houses and been bored to death. It wouldn't be fair to name the shows. But I'm put off by anything that's terribly long and doesn't have a dramatic storyline."

That does not mean he only likes mysteries, he hastens to add. "It's just that Noel Coward's *Present Laughter* comes into his good plays category, while Mr Schmitzer can give us a rambling evening.

Such dispassionate debunking augers well for the Theatre of Comedy's audience at The Shaftesbury when Conti opens next Monday in the 19th-century French farce, *An Italian Straw Hat*. Tabiche's improbable events in Paris on Bastille Day have been given a gentle prod into the 1980s with a little judicious cutting and the freshness of contemporary dialogue.

But then it started with the advantage of being a brilliantly constructed classic, Conti says. It is perfectly logical. Its plot is very simple: "A man's horse eats a straw hat which belongs to a lady who's being had by her cavalry officer lover down behind the hedge. The hat was given to her by her husband, who thinks she's upstairs sick in bed. She blackmails the character I play to find her an identical hat — on a public holiday when all the shops are closed and he is getting married, so he's running ragged around Paris."

At 43, having cracked Hollywood, Conti is famous enough to pick which plays he wants to appear in. But he wants to keep the film-theatre balance at 50-50 for two reasons. Movies tend to take him out of the country and he wants to spend more time with his wife, actress Kara Wilson, and 12-year-old daughter. The other reason is that stage work tends to give him more control over the finished product. Films have made him wealthy — he owns a huge Hampstead mansion and drives a Rolls-Royce — but not complacent.

RADIO

poems — read by Larkin himself — were like those great fists of rock that break out of a green landscape: at once stark and thoroughly at home.

Dramatically the accent of the week has shifted from Russian to Scottish. Well, fairly Scottish. Radio 4's season of Scottish drama has focused attention on the high levels of production and performance which in my experience are the norm for BBC Scotland. Quite what was uniquely Scottish about the material is another matter — in fact, Jessie Kesson's *Three Score and Ten*, Sir (Tuesday and Wednesday) was set in North London and seemed chiefly to demonstrate that a talented Scottish writer can adopt a complete southern disguise.

David Wade

Scarred on Sunday

Hard on the heels of one colourful rogue comes another. In the middle of last month Russell Davies's *Rein of the Kingfisher* (Radio 3) told of that talkative, flamboyant, dubiously honest bully, the last Governor Huey P Long, once self-appointed dictator of Louisiana. Last Monday Mr Davies followed-up with another Hogarthian portrait: Charles E Coughlin.

parish priest. But in his heyday, the American Sunday afternoon used to be scheduled round his broadcasts.

For both programmes Davies had unearthed some priceless archive material which he and his producer, David Perry, had blended with the lively reminiscences of those who knew these men, setting their material in robust narrative.

As the US found itself involved in a European war against Nazism and with Joe Stalin for an ally, Coughlin's obsession, eventually helped to scupper him and he lapsed into a long later life — he only died in 1979 — as a relatively obscure, if notably affluent,

CONCERTS

RPO-Masur Festival Hall

After cancelling a solo recital a few days previously, Elisabeth Leonskaja was very present and very correct for her concerto engagement with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The Soviet-born pianist, now based in Vienna, brought no special insights into Beethoven's G Major Concerto (No 4), but she did give a magisterial performance at the keyboard.

There were times near the start when her playing seemed unduly effortful, but it transpired that she was generating an assurance of character which later brought a hushed gravity to the slow movement and something approaching muscular ferocity to the finale. In this she contrasted effectively with the orchestra, given notably light and springy rhythms by Kurt Masur.

After some conductors the RPO have recently brought upon themselves here was one who aroused a kind of corporate reawakening to the finer sensibilities of music-making. Masur carried the orchestra less with him in Schubert's C Major Symphony, the *Great* by relating rhythm and character to an underlying pulse. Never letting the momentum sag, the conductor constantly refreshed our pleasure with the felicities of instrumental detail with which Schubert abounds.

Noel Goodwin Nash Ensemble Wigmore Hall

The Nash Ensemble seems to have the happy knack to choosing the right singer for the song. In this programme it was Felicity Lott, whose intensely focused soprano was able to assume both the dark colours necessary for Shostakovich's *Seven Poems of Alexander Blok*, op 127, and the intimate warmth demanded by the four Tchaikovsky songs she sang.

The Shostakovich, first performed in 1967, contains all the despondent and melodramatic pessimism that we might expect of a work written in that era, its predominantly spare textures and moods varied by the use of all possible instrumental combinations of the piano.

Brown alone provided the exquisitely delicate support for the Tchaikovsky songs. Miss Lott's controlled top A at the end of "The Cradle Song" held for what seemed all eternity, testified by her polished technique; but it was, merely the most spectacular manifestation of the sensitivity of her musicianship.

Stephen Pettitt

It was incorrectly stated in James Oestreich's review of *I Puritana* (December 2), that Joan Sutherland had been absent from the Metropolitan, New York, for the decade. Dame Joan has, in fact, sung in the House in this period, notably as Lucia di Lammermoor.

There are people who like to get together and get all moody and actorish, but Conti reckons he is not one of them. "I'd just get naughty and start pilfering in the cloakrooms."

Angela L. Wilkes

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a Penny for a Song BY JOHN WHITING THE FINER LUNACIES OF THE ENGLISH AT WAR. IN THIS GLORIOUS COMEDY A RICH COLLECTION OF ENGLISH ECCENTRICS CAUSE CONFUSION AND CHAOS AS THEY PREPARE FOR NAPOLEON'S INVASION FORCE.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 6: By command of The Queen, the Lord Hesketh (Lord in Waiting) was present at Royal Air Force Northolt this afternoon upon the departure of the President of the French Republic and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

Richard Fitch) and the Chairman, City of London Council (Mr. Derek Pritt).

The infant son of Mr and Mrs James Taylor-Dickson was christened Frederick William on Sunday, November 23, at Wiggonholt Parish Church, West Sussex, by the Rev. Kenneth Oliver.

Birthdays today

Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, 61; Mr Sammy Davis, jr, 61; Mr Lucian Freud, 64; Mr James Galway, 47; Mr Maurice Green, 80; Mr Geoff Hurst, 45; Lord Proby-Davies, 63; Sir Arthur Rymill, 79; Mr Maximilian Schell, 56; Sir Alan Stewart, 69; Mr Michael Unger, 43; Sir William Wood, 70.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Justice Russell to be a Lord Justice of Appeal in the place of Sir Frederick Horace Lawton, who will be retiring on December 21.

Memorial service

Professor R. Shackleton The Archbishop of Canterbury pronounced the blessing at a memorial service for Professor Robert Shackleton held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.

Service Luncheon

Royal Irish Rangers The annual luncheon of the Royal Irish Rangers Officers' Club was held on Saturday at the London Irish Rifles, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea.

Service dinner

160 Transport Regiment RCT (V) Colonel R.L. Wallis, Honorary Colonel, and the officers of (V) held a regimental dinner night at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, on Saturday.

Latest wills

Winifred Joan Wedge, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, surgeon, left estate valued at £274,985 net.

Clifford Longley Do we need an Anglican pope?

The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Hugh Montefiore, has pronounced the Anglo-American church quarrel over a parish in Tulsa, Oklahoma, "the most dangerous development in the Church of England" of his long career.

Dr Montefiore, it is understood, moved a motion of censure against the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, at the last meeting of the House of Bishops. He was defeated, and the House expressed its disapproval in somewhat more oblique terms.

He accuses the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, of weak leadership in his handling of the affair, saying he should have ordered the Bishop of London not to make his celebrated visit to Tulsa to take part in confirmations there, rather than limiting himself to persuasion.

Dr C.W. Bodmer and Dr F.J. Wood The marriage took place on Saturday, December 6, at Christchurch, Hinton, Bolton, between Dr Charles Walker Bodmer, younger son of Sir Walter and Lady Bodmer, of Lincoln's Inn Fields, and Dr Fiona Jane Wood, daughter of Mr and Mrs John D. Wood, of Bolton, Lancashire.

Mr A.G. Archer and Miss A.J. Miller The marriage took place in Khandallah, New Zealand, on Saturday, December 6, between Mr Andrew Archer and Miss Jo Miller.

Mr C.M.R. Holt and Miss S.C. Hanson The marriage took place on Saturday, December 6, at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Gainsborough, between Mr Charles Holt, of Westborough, Colchester, and Miss Sarah Hanson, of Gainsborough.

Mr P.W. Merriman and Miss A.J. Staveley The marriage took place on Saturday, December 6, at the Church of St. Peter, Gainsborough, between Mr Peter Merriman, of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, younger son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Merriman, and Miss Anabel Staveley, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Johnson, of the Chelmsford General, Gainsborough.

Mr D.C. Gore Browne and Miss D.J. Rees The marriage took place on Saturday, at St George's, Danversham, Hampshire, of Mr David Gore Browne, son of Sir Thomas and Lady Gore Browne, and Miss Diana Rees, daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Rees. The Rev J. Hattaway officiated.

money, with a fundamental disagreement over the ordination of women priests in the background. The Bishop of London, explicitly forbidden by the Anglican bishops to interfere, has nevertheless offered the parish his personal pastoral care, in fulfilment of which he made his recent visit to them.

The "concept of a Universal Primate" is a reference to the final report of the first Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC I) on authority in the Church, which the General Synod has now decided is evidence of sufficient convergence between the two sides to justify further negotiations.

But it was that part of the entire ARCIC package which is causing most hesitation in the Church of England at present, with a revival of fears of papal authoritarianism. The focus of this anxiety is the papal claim to immediate universal jurisdiction over the whole church, which gives him authority to over-rule a bishop. It has been widely criticized as an unsound theological principle, as well as being dangerous in practice.

The painting had hung at Conygar House, Broadmayne, Dorset, which was built in 1895 by a successful sheep farmer from New Zealand. It can be presumed that he bought the painting.

Mr G. Castledine and Miss L. Slater The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place shortly, between George, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Walter Castledine, of Whitechurch, Shropshire, and Leonora Adamson, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.F.K. Slater, of Bedford Park, London, W4.

Mr N.A. Meredith and Miss S.A. Oliver The engagement is announced between Nicholas, second son of Mr and Mrs R. Meredith, of Barmston, Surrey, and younger daughter of Mr Gilmour Payne, of Woodlands, Holford, Somerset, and Mrs Charles Barclay, of Brent Felham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.P.N. Ray and Miss R. M.A. Silk The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr Derick Ray and the late Mrs Ray, of Great Shelford, Cambridge, and Rowena, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Silk, of Whyteleafe, Surrey.

Mr A.W.G. Reed and Miss A.G. Weldon The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Group Captain (ret'd), and Mrs William Reed, of Epsom, Surrey, and younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Weldon, of Westbourne Park Road, London, W8.

OBITUARY MR C. de SAUSMAREZ

Varied public service and feudal roots

Mr Cecil de Sausmarez, MBE, scholar, diplomat, wartime broadcaster and prominent Guernseyman, died on November 22. He was 79.

Cecil Havilland de Sausmarez was born on November 20, 1907, at Rawalpindi, the son of a soldier. He was educated at Winchester (where he was a scholar) and at Hertford College, Oxford. He later held a Laming language fellowship at Queen's College, Oxford.

In 1932 he became an assistant master at Wellington, and held the post until the outbreak of war, when he became press attaché at the British embassy in Brussels. In 1940 he escaped via Dunkirk.

His knowledge of Belgium, together with a fluency in Flemish and German, proved useful during the next year, when he was attached to the Ministry of Information, first in the anti-rumours office and then as a specialist on Belgium.

Mr Frank McCarthy, retired American brigadier-general, who produced the film Patton that won seven Oscars, died on December 1. He was 74.

He was born at Richmond, Virginia, on June 8, 1912, and educated at the Virginia Military Institute, where he was an instructor and tactical officer from 1933 to 1937.

Mr Anthony Mascarenhas, journalist, whose exposure of Pakistani army atrocities created a world-wide sensation in 1971, died on December 3. He was 58.

Neville Anthony (Tony) Mascarenhas was born at Belgann, near Goa, on July 10, 1928. A Roman Catholic, he was educated at St Patrick's College, Karachi, before joining Reuters in Bombay in 1948.

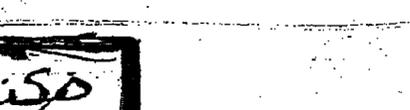
At the time of partition he was sent to Karachi to start their operation in the new state of Pakistan. He then helped to found Pakistan's own news agency, APP.

General Le Trong Tan, chief of staff of the Vietnamese army, and a key figure in the Communist victory in 1975, died in Hanoi on December 5. He was 72.

He was born near Hanoi in October 1914. He joined the Indo-Chinese Communist Party, forerunner of the Vietnamese Party, in 1944.

He led North Vietnamese forces in the March 1975 assaults on the cities of Hue and Da Nang, part of the general offensive that led to the Communist victory the next month when, in a lightning campaign, they seized Saigon.

Advertisement for NEC mobile telephones. Features include: 'The most versatile rabbit rabbit.', 'Everybody knows somebody with a car phone. And jolly useful too.', 'The most advanced mobile phone in the field.', 'The fastest charging rabbit rabbit.', 'All mobile telephones need time to re-charge their batteries.', 'But some need a longer nap than others. With an NEC Transportable, we give you three convenient options.', '1. The speedy re-charge. Plug the NEC Transportable into our unique boot pack. Alternatively, use your car cigarette lighter with our neat adaptor. Recharging takes just 1 1/2 hours.', '2. The handy re-charge. The NEC Transportable will re-charge overnight on the standard mains charger.', '3. The super-fast home. So when the morning comes, you'll both be raring to go.', 'I'm all ears. Please send me your NEC Transportable telephone brochure.', 'Send to: NEC Business Systems (Europe) Limited, Radio Communications Division, 35 Oval Road, London, NW1 7EA.', 'NEC'



Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET (Change on week) FT 30 Share 1268.5 (-23.7) FT-SE 100 1613.5 (-23.2) Bargains 29142 (24916) USM (Datastream) 128.38 (-0.67) THE POUND (Change on week) US Dollar 1.4290 (-0.0065) W German mark 2.8523 (+0.0215) Trade-weighted 68.1 (same)

Small investors breathe again as shares are set to reach 70p

20p premium on gas likely

Favouring the small investors in the allocation of British Gas shares has led some City experts to think they will go to a premium of 20p or even more when official dealings start on the Stock Exchange at 2.30 this afternoon. If that happens, chairman Sir Denis Rooke's shareholders will be sitting on a profit of £20 for every 100 shares allocated, a rate of 40 per cent on the initial 50p per share payment before expenses. Fears last week that investors might not see any instant profit, as shares on the unofficial grey market dipped down to the 50p partly paid offer price, are now being discounted. By close of business on Friday they had recovered to a middle price of about 60p, and dealers are now increasingly confident that the shares will gain further ground today.

Basis of Allocation (for valid applications) Table with columns: Number of Shares Applied For, Number of Shares Allocated, Gen Public Applicant, Customer Share Scheme Applicant (Green Form)



Sir Denis Rooke: sick of Sid?

Beleaguered Pilkington interim soars

Pilkington Brothers, the Lancashire-based glass multinational, will announce sharply increased half-year profits today as the first step in its campaign to rebuff an initial £1.16 billion takeover bid by Sir Owen Green's BTR. City analysts are expecting profits of £75 million or more pretax for the six months to September, compared with £39 million last year. This reflects both the early stages of the improvement in the glass market and the fact that for the first time Mr Antony Pilkington, the company's chairman, will announce its results on the conventional historic cost basis. The next stage is the first Pilkington defence document, which is expected on Wednesday. In it, Pilkington will argue that the bid has no commercial logic and question what BTR could do, short of breaking up the business, to improve performance. Schroders, the merchant bank adviser to Pilkington, thinks Pilkington is unlikely any of BTR's previous successful acquisitions and not susceptible to the same treatment, or to cutting back on investment or development. BTR claimed in its offer document that Pilkington's return on sales was only 5.2 per cent, compared with its own 10.8 per cent. But Pilkington is likely to challenge the accounting basis for this comparison, claiming that, allowing for historic depreciation charges and proper treatment of research, its return on sales is comparable to BTR's. The defence document will not contain a forecast for the year to March because the current bid, now well below Pilkington's share price, is seen as only a softening up exercise. City analysts, however, think profits for the full year should be at least £175 million, against £106 million on the old basis last time. Even this will take in only four months of the latest 10 per cent rise in domestic glass prices announced in November. Glass prices have now risen by about a fifth in 12 months. Some analysts are already forecasting that profits will top £220 million in 1987-88. Much argument in future is likely to centre on the loan gearing of BTR if ever its present bid for Pilkington were successful. In a pro-forma statement in its share-listing particulars, BTR estimates combined net assets at £1.2 billion and overdrafts and long term loans of £1.7 billion. But Pilkington will point out that this includes its assets at replacement value, which will not be applicable in future. Together with debt acquired with Pilkington over the acquisition, Libbey-Owens-Ford, this could reduce net assets below £1 billion and increase indebtedness to £1.8 billion. This would leave BTR heavily geared unless it sold large parts of Pilkington.



Antony Pilkington: "Bid has no logic"

Demand for oil growing, Opec told

From David Young Geneva Opec Ministers will hear today that demand for oil has grown by 2.5 per cent this year and will rise by a further 1.5 per cent in 1987. They are meeting here this week to find ways of pushing the world oil price back up to about \$18 a barrel. Latest figures from the International Energy Agency in Paris show that in the first nine months of this year, when prices slumped from \$30 a barrel to \$15, demand rose. In the industrialized nations petrol consumption went up by 3.5 per cent. Home heating oil demand rose and electricity authorities, returning to heavy fuel oil from coal, sent demand up 31 per cent. The figures also show that Western oil companies have been adding to their stocks by about 2 million barrels a day and that there is enough in company tanks to meet 74 days of demand with a further 22 days available from government stocks. It now seems that all 13 Opec member states agree that a new quota system of about 1 million barrels a day less than its present 17 million barrels maximum will be necessary to enable the cartel to introduce fixed-price contracts once again at a level of \$18. In fact, Opec has been producing only 16.5 million barrels a day in recent weeks, according to the IEA, largely because of pipeline closures in Saudi Arabia which are affecting Iraq. However, several delegates have already said that negotiations on the exact distribution of the overall production ceiling will take some time to complete with lengthy negotiations also needed to establish the differential price between the high quality Arab light crude oils and the heavy oil production from some other member countries. Because of a near-50 per cent drop in oil income this year, Venezuela has devalued the bolivar by 48 per cent to 14.50 to the dollar.

Statement from Saunders likely

By Our City Staff The chairman of Guinness, Mr Ernest Saunders, is expected to make a statement on the controversy surrounding the company when its year-end results are unveiled on Wednesday. Further facts which may relate to the Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into Guinness emerged at the weekend. So far Mr Saunders has insisted that he, and the rest of Guinness, do not know what the DTI is investigating. But he is coming under increasing pressure to reveal more details of dealings in Guinness shares at the time of the Distillers takeover in April. Analysts expect Guinness to announce a strong increase in pretax profits to about £235 million for the year to September 30 from £86.1 million last year. A statement by Mr Saunders is likely to include confirmation that Lazard Brothers is to be brought in to join Morgan Grenfell as a merchant banking adviser to Guinness. The company has also called on the help of Sir Gordon Reece, the public relations expert. Most attention is, however, being focused on Schenley, part of the Rapid American Corporation owned by Mr Melusman Riklis, which distributes Dewars in the US. Schenley emerged from the Distillers takeover battle with a 4 per cent holding in Guinness and is thought to have contributed to the rise in Guinness's shares during the bid. Mr Roger Seelig, a director of Morgan Grenfell, said that the bank had no knowledge of any contact between Guinness and Schenley during the bid. He added that the bank knew of no contact between Guinness and Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced New York arbitrageur.

Whitehall silence on Airbus

By Colin Narborough Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Minister for Information Technology, is unlikely to give the British Aerospace chairman, Sir Austin Pearce, much guidance today on whether the Government is willing to meet the company's request for £750 million to keep it in the European aircraft consortium, Airbus Industrie. Government sources said a formal request for funds was submitted by British Aerospace on October 20 and the Department of Trade and Industry said it was still being assessed. The officials could not say when the Government would make its final position clear. The launch aid, spread over six years, would be Britain's contribution towards a new generation of airliners, the Airbus A330 and A340. Sir Austin's scheduled discussions today with Mr Pattie are part of BAE's increased campaign to persuade the Government to give more aid for Airbus. The Government loaned the company £250 million towards the A320 and is looking for repayment by the mid-1990s. BAE has a 20 per cent interest in Airbus. Mr Pattie is likely to remind BAE that the Government wants a real rate of return on any loans it makes to BAE and is not in the business of subsidizing industry. The Government was sceptical about BAE's latest call for more funds due to doubts about the world airliner market's capacity to absorb new Airbus and rival aircraft from the US planemakers, McDonnell Douglas, British Caledonian last week opted for McDonnell's MD-11.

Optimistic new forecasts for UK

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor Latest independent forecasts for the British economy next year present an optimistic picture. Midland Bank confirms the Government's prediction of 3 per cent growth next year, boosted by the fall in oil prices and a more competitive pound. Inflation is expected to average 3.9 per cent. Professor Michael Artis and Professor Marcus Miller, writing in the bank's Review, say Britain should join the European Monetary System as a full member but suggest the pound should be allowed to fluctuate within wider bands than the usual 2 1/2 per cent either side of the central rate. The Liverpool University Research Group also forecasts 3 per cent growth. It expects inflation to be confined to about 3.5 per cent if a Conservative government is re-elected with Alliance support. Without the need for Alliance support, inflation would be lower. The City University Business School forecasts expect growth of about 3.9 per cent and inflation rising to 4.7 per cent. They do not think there will be scope for tax cuts in the Budget, but the Chancellor should be able to cut the basic rate of income tax to 25p in the pound by 1990. Lloyds Bank thinks there will be scope for £1 billion of tax cuts, but says that without the increase in public spending the basic rate could have been reduced to 25p. As it is, it would be possible to introduce a 25p reduced-rate band to help those on lower incomes. The bank believes growth will peak next year at 5 per cent and inflation at 3 per cent.

Sainsbury goes shopping for £100m short-term cash

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent J Sainsbury, the supermarket group, has arranged £100 million in short-term financing through the sterling commercial paper market established earlier this year. SG Warburg, the merchant bank, and the Swiss Bank Corporation International are arranging the commercial paper programme. Sainsbury will start issuing paper in about six months time to cover short-term funding requirements. Mr Ewan Davidson, the treasurer, said: "We see the sterling commercial paper market as a good additional source of short-term borrowing for a company such as ours which has seasonal fluctuations in its cash requirements." The group hopes to raise money at good terms in the market due to its strong credit rating. Although the commercial paper programme will not be separately graded, Sainsbury achieved an AA rating from Standard and Poors for its £100 million bond issue last year. Commercial paper programmes allow the issuer to raise money of less than one year's maturity at short notice up to the total amount stipulated in the programme. It is particularly helpful to companies facing sharp fluctuations in short-term funding requirements during the year.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Beverco, British Benzol, Compost Holdings, F & C Alliance, Gilbert Investments, Hamilton Oil Corporation, Hamilton Oil Corporation, Jack L Israel Group, Osborne & Little, R W Toothill, Vinten Group. Finalists: Matthew Brown, Dobson Park, Greenall Whitley, Hardanger. TUESDAY - Interims: Bogod-Peleph, Chapman International, Meyer International, Moorgate Investment Trust, Noeroc, Alfred Preedy and Wardell Sons, Tricentrol, Frazzels Roberts, Whitecroft, Frazzels Burns Anderson, J A Devanish, Goring Kerr, Granada Group, Humberside Elec Group, Humberside Ruston Controls, Mcleod Ruston, Midsummer Inns, Tacc, Towngrade Securities, Vaux Group. WEDNESDAY - Interims: Airspring Group, Anderson Strathclyde, Associated British Engineering, Booth Industries, BTP, Celestion Industries, Chartered Consolidated, Derrigent Stamping, Equity Consort

M & S warning to staff Crackdown on thieves

By Our City Staff Marks and Spencer, the retail chain famed for its enlightened staff policies, has given its 56,000-strong workforce a warning not to steal, as part of its campaign to reduce the estimated £50 million lost every year because of theft. Mr John Poppleton, head of publicity, said yesterday that a document entitled "Down the Drain", made clear to employees that the company could no longer afford to take staff theft lightly. Not that the bulk of the theft losses could be attributed to staff, but the company felt that its earlier calls for worker honesty had not achieved the desired effect. "We are sadly having to step up vigilance, but this is a sign of the times generally," he said. Up to 90 per cent of theft stores have doubled in the past year to about 18,000, but Mr Poppleton could not supply a breakdown of the data. However, the company does not see itself as a targeted victim for theft, from either staff or outsiders. The need for its warning reflects a general increase in high street theft and other offences against shops. M & S, which last year made a £365 million profit, has tried to give its employees guidance in the past about the dangers of slipping into crime. This has been done mainly through instructional videos prepared by its personnel department. Apprehensions in M & S

£5m USM launch puts new shine on Mayborn

By Our City Correspondent Mayborn, the private company marketing dyes and baby products, will be launched on the unlisted securities market in the next few days to raise £5 million. The company includes Dylon, market leader in domestic dye packaging in Britain and most European and Australian countries. It also produces shoe-care items and household cleaners. About 50 per cent of the company's sales comprise exports. Mayborn also includes two baby product companies - Jackel in Britain and Sealwood in the US. Mr Samuel, managing director, said the various parts of the company were similar in marketing high-volume, low-value goods, which were simple to produce. A company in the Far East has recently been added to the group's activities. Mayborn, founded in 1946, has seen a steady profit growth over the last few years from £543,000 in 1981 to £1.43 million last year. In the six months to June 30, pretax profits amounted to £1.14 million with much the same performance expected for the second half. "There has been a general increase in sales over the last half year without a great increase in overheads," Mr Samuel said.

Capital Shares advertisement for Chelsea Building Society. Features interest rates of 9.15% and 9.35% with details on investment options and contact information.

USM REVIEW

Take shelter with the most expensive architect and wait

One of America's leading architectural companies makes its debut on the unlisted securities market this week.

The Clark Tribble values the company, Clark, Tribble, Harris & Li, at £14 million, making it the biggest quoted architectural group in Britain.

Clark, Tribble, founded as a partnership in 1973, offers a comprehensive service in planning, architecture, engineering and interior design.

Now operating from offices in Washington, New York, Los Angeles and Charlotte, North Carolina, the company has concentrated on the commercial development sector, building up a blue chip client list.

Its particular expertise is in mixed use buildings, where a hotel, office and retail complex are developed together on the main site.

Another design feature used by the company is the atrium, which has been particularly popular in office buildings in this decade.

The USM listing is to raise funds for organic expansion. All Clark, Tribble designs are computer-aided which provides the opportunity to modify and print designs substantially and rapidly.

The system is one of the most advanced of its kind but technological developments mean that the company will have to make further investment in this area.

A significant element of the group's expansion is the planned establishment of a British operation. The London office development, especially in Docklands and the City of London, is seen as offering particularly favourable opportunities.

London is also regarded as a base for further expansion into European markets.

Pretax profits have risen from \$291,000 (£203,49) in 1981 to \$733,000 in 1985, and for the year just ended the group is forecasting not less than \$1.8 million.

The tax charge is complicated by pending changes in US tax law but, on the maximum effective rate, the prospective price/earnings ratio for the year is 15.9 times, and a year ahead it would be in the region of 12 times.

The rating is comparable to the p/e adopted for the launch last spring of D Y Davies, the first architectural practice to seek a stock market quotation.

Davies came to the market on a rating of 14.4 times and immediately went to a 30 per cent premium. But it has not climbed since.

Ernest Green, a structural engineering consultancy, was placed on a more modest rating of 12.5 times but it now stands at a 40 per cent premium to the issue price.

Clark, Tribble is therefore the most expensive of the architects to make its debut, and the shares are unlikely to open at a huge premium.

But as Canary Wharf, London, begins to take shape and the group wins a record in Britain, the financial management and high quality design skills of the group should be given increasing recognition by the market.

Twelve months out this stock is likely to enjoy a premium rating.

Isabel Unsworth
The author is a member of the small companies' unit at Phillips & Drew.

Polarization 'unlikely to hit profits'

By Lawrence Lever

The effects of polarization will impair the clearing banks' capacity to attract new business in life assurance and unit trusts, a circular from Smith New Court Research says.

However, the effect on the banks' profits is not likely to be significant in group terms.

Polarisation is the rule formulated by the Securities and Investments Board which stipulates that anyone selling life assurance or unit trusts must either be an independent intermediary offering a range of different companies' products, or a company representative offering products of only that company.

The clearing banks have lobbied fiercely for special status which would exempt them from the requirements of polarization. The SIB, however, has insisted it must apply to them.

Smith New Court says that, given the choice, the clearing banks will opt for company representative status. The vast majority of life and unit trust business generated through their branch network is placed in-house," it says.

"Elected to become an independent intermediary would probably involve a loss of some of this business and entail considerable expense in retraining or recruiting staff."

About the effect on the bottom line, the authors point out that Barclays and TSB have the biggest exposure. At the end of 1985 they were respectively the fifth and sixth-largest unit trust management groups.

The authors say that the vociferous manner of the banks' protest does indicate a degree of concern.

Cheap foreign shoe imports tumble by 13%

By Our Industrial Editor

Cheaper footwear imports into Britain collapsed 13 per cent in volume during the first nine months of this year, offset to some extent by a 9 per cent rise in the more expensive ranges.

It left imports down in volume by 3 per cent overall although on a 12-month analysis they still had a 58 per cent market penetration. This emerges from the latest survey of the trade by the British Footwear Manufacturers Association, which reported further improvements in British makers' deliveries, up 10.3 per cent during September.

Order books also improved by 3.1 per cent. There was more encouragement for the British manufacturers in the continuing upward trend in their exports.

AE débâcle points to takeover code rethink

The six-month AE takeover saga ought to rank as the nadir in relationships between the City and industry. The melodrama has left a former senior figure in the bank advising one bidder, Robert Maxwell's Hollis, facing an insider trading charge. It has resulted in severe censure from the City Takeover Panel for the leading merchant bank Hill Samuel and stockbroker Cazenove, which were acting for AE.

It has shown the Panel pursuing blinkered City interest in penalizing the client rather than its advisers. The behaviour of some investment institutions has left Pontius Pilate looking a model of integrity by comparison. Even the successful bidder, Sir Francis Tombs' Turner & Newall, has had so much mud thrown at it over asbestos liabilities that some is bound to stick.

But only the optimist would bet on this being a turning point. The combination of the City's understandable obsession with its own affairs, a great increase in the efficiency (as well as the necessity) of the takeover industry and the pressure of competition, have created a culture that has developed great power over industry and, at the level that counts, has little in common with it.

AE was, perhaps, not naturally cast as damsel in distress, for as Associated Engineering it was hardly a stainless paragon of the industrial virtues. Less than four years ago, it was in no position to resist a takeover by GKN, having been caught badly by an extreme variant of the slump. It was lucky to be saved by the Monopolies Commission. Although strong on investment and product development, it needed the market discipline of a takeover threat.

When Turner & Newall's first bid came, few thought AE needed it or would be improved by it. Turner & Newall needed AE's British profits to use its own tax allowances, to dilute the double image of asbestos and Africa that were left after Sir Francis' rescue operation, and to generate the financial activity the City likes.

Many institutions were reluctant to accept T & N's offer, but when the AE price fell in expectation of bid failure, large numbers tried to have it both ways by selling in the market. T & N bought.

COMMENT

AE débâcle points to takeover code rethink

Arbitrageurs, seeking a quick turn by accepting, bought the rest. AE's advisers countered with a sort of reverse arbitrage, giving selected buyers a no-loss guarantee. It is questionable whether this was in the spirit of the Takeover Code principle that all shareholders should be treated equally, but the Panel merely condemned the advisers for non-disclosure. T & N, which just failed with 49 per cent, was allowed to re-bid.

AE sensed it had little chance. But along came Robert Maxwell, a streetwise as Sir John was not, with a white knight offer through his much smaller Hollis, a ragbag with interests ranging from school desks to stationary and cash-demanding cranes. Mr Maxwell needed engineering credibility. AE was desperate to avoid T & N. So a ludicrous partnership was formed, with the AE board under the somewhat naive impression that it would be left in charge to run its demanding business.

The City just supplied the shares. AE has ended, due to Mr Maxwell's promise not to sell his 30 per cent stake, at the centre of a stand-off between its new controller and an inveterate campaigner. Time will tell whether Mr Maxwell merely miscalculated or has some deeper plan.

Turner & Newall has the best of intentions towards AE. But it is barely possible to believe that this process had anything to do with the health and progress of AE's business - just the sort of world leader in advanced niche engineering that the country needs. Still less can the process have helped AE's business. Its rivals in Germany, where such companies are the bedrock of success, must be laughing.

If this kind of self-inflicted damage is to be reversed, the voluntary framework, in which free market forces should operate, needs to be changed fast. The CBI taskforce is looking at relations between industry and institutional investors. The Takeover Code now also needs reform and the Bank of England might here again take a lead.

The principle of equal treatment for investors remains vital. The other pillar of the Code, the notion that it acts as referee in an equal courtroom-style contest to be decided by the jury of share prices, needs rethinking. The rise of arbitrage acting as proxy for a concert party and the misleading use of convertible loan stocks, have tilted the balance in favour of any bidder who has not miscalculated or bitten off more than he can chew. And the rules, so carefully developed to ensure fairness, now underwrite the abuse of the power of finance over industry.

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. Lists various unlisted securities and their market performance.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. Lists various investment trusts and their market performance.

APPOINTMENTS

Stylo: Mr David Lloyd Hughes is made finance director. Unisys: Mr Richard Close becomes director, finance. Mr Mel Smaje director, human resources. Mr Chris Evans director, management services. Mr Peter Macleod director, strategic planning and Mr Charles Robinson executive assistant to the vice president. Civil Service Occupational Health Service: Dr George Sorrie is made director. Hoover: Mr Anthony Williamson becomes managing director, UK. Mr Anthony Simpson managing director, Europe, and Mr David Perkins finance director, Eastern region. Alfred McAlpine: Mr John L. Hallgren becomes director. Willcocks & Stephens Pipelines.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Dividend, etc. Lists various financial trusts and their market performance.

Advertisement for Adler SE300 typewriter. Includes text: 'How do you memorise 20 A4 pages of text?', 'Ask your Adler.', 'ADLER The new Adler SE300 Series electronic typewriters all have amazing memories - up to 38,000 characters on the SE320 model. That is equivalent to approximately 20 A4 text pages.' Features: 40 character display, Menu assisted operation, Correction memory (4000 characters on the SE320), Justified text. Other features of the SE300 range include boldface, automatic underlining, word expansion and graduated spacing. Please send me more information about the new Adler 300 series. Name, Company, Address, Telephone. Simply a better idea for your business. Office and Electronic Machines plc. 140-154 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LH. Tel: 01-407 3191.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 24. Dealings end Friday, 8 Contango day December 8. Settlement day December 15. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E are calculated on the middle price

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gains or Loss. Lists various companies like Barclays, MI Hops, Lee Cooper, etc.

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total

Table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

UNDATED

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

BREWERIES

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

FOODS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

CINEMAS AND TV

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

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Portfolio Gold - Daily Dividend £4,000. Claims required for +46 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53273.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

PROPERTY

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

MINING

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

L-R

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

MOTOR AND AIRCRAFT

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

TEXTILES

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Int. Rate, Div. Yield

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured and illegible.

Portfolio Gold DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000 Claims required for 45 points Claimants should ring 0254-5373

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER PRINTING ADVERT

سكدين الاصل

GILT-EDGED

Rise in real yields reinforces impact of inflation trends

Gilts have performed badly since the middle of April. At that time, the Government was issuing long-dated gilt-edged stock on a yield below 8% per cent. The latest issue in the long-dated range, a £100 million tranche of Treasury 8% per cent 2007, was allotted by the Treasury to the Bank of England on a 10.5 per cent yield. The capital loss represented by this yield movement amounts to about 18 per cent.

Table with columns: % (31.12.85, 18.04.86, 30.06.86, 30.09.86, 13.11.86, 03.12.86), Inflation expectation*, Real yield**, Risk premium***, Yield Tr 03/07 (10.6, 9.7, 9.4, 10.6, 11.0, 11.0)

The question is: what influences the level of real yields? Over the long term, it is the ability of the economy to generate income flows to service debts contracted at the given real yield level. If real yields are higher than commercial borrowers believe can be financed, they will withdraw from the capital market, or the Government will cut its borrowing to relieve the upward pressure on real yields. In either event, real yields will fall.

Sparkle goes out of plug market

By Our City Staff Mr Bill Graham has just been appointed managing director of a company which has more than 50 per cent of a £60 million British market and will collect an award today for the quality and performance of its products.



Bill Graham: Spark plugs are too efficient

Mr Graham, a Glaswegian who has been Champion's director of finance and business development in Brussels, said: "The trouble with spark plugs is that they are getting so efficient that it doesn't need replacing as often."

Table wine sales are perking up

Wine sales are improving again, with table wines now up by an annual rate of 4.2 per cent and fortified ones, like sherry and port, less affected by slacker trends.

City panel apt for judicial review

Regina v Panel on Take-overs and Mergers, Ex parte Datafin and Another Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nicholls [Reasons December 5]

Limit to extent of listed building

Debenhams plc v Westminster City Council Before Lord Keith of Kinkell, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mackay of Castletarn and Lord Ackner [Speeches December 4]

Company trust payments deductible

E. Bott Ltd v Price (Inspector of Taxes) Before Mr Justice Hoffmann [Judgment December 1]

Johnson Matthey STRONG RECOVERY CONTINUES Results for the six months ended 30th September 1986 OPERATING PROFIT £27.4m - up 34% PROFIT BEFORE TAX £21.6m - up 106% PROFIT AFTER TAX £16.1m - up 127% EARNINGS PER SHARE 11.3p - up 151% INTERIM DIVIDEND 2p - up 300%

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER PRINTING ADVERT

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

The last piece in the jigsaw of war

CHOICE

A People's War (Channel 4, 10.00pm), now five weeks into its seven-week run...

Flanagan and Allen underneath the arches in the works canteen, Professor Joad saying 'It depends who you mean by...' on Brains Trust...

barred from the tea/coffee trolley if they were pregnant but unwed, and glamour-starved girls regarding evening GI - no matter how ugly - as a figure that had just stepped out of the silver screen...

with the vicar. He might not object to the fixing of a microphone to the altar rail, but will almost definitely have strong feelings about the cameraman/woman climbing into the pulpit...



The Market Theatre of Johannesburg: Born in the R.S.A. (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

Peter Davalle

BBC1 schedule listing programs like Ceefax AM, Breakfast Time, and various news and entertainment shows.

BBC2 schedule listing programs like Ceefax, The Week in the Larder, and various news and entertainment shows.

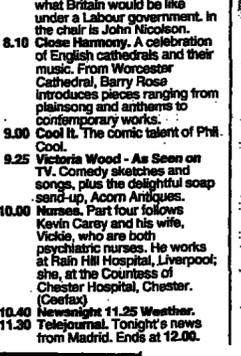
ITV LONDON schedule listing programs like Good Morning Britain, News, and various entertainment shows.

CHANNEL 4 schedule listing programs like Snooker, World of Sport, and various entertainment shows.

VARIATIONS schedule listing programs like BBC1, BBC2, and various regional news and entertainment shows.



Julie Walters: she appears once again as Mrs Overall in Victoria Wood - As Seen on TV (BBC2, 9.25pm)



The two women who enjoy an unusual day out in Turn It Up: Acting Up (Eleventh Hour: Channel 4, 11.00pm)

Advertisement for NSPCC featuring a photo of a child and text: 'Four years old. Seriously underweight for her age. Scavenging for food where she can find it. And she's English.' Includes contact information for NSPCC.

Radio 3 and Radio 4 schedule listings for Monday, December 8, 1986, listing programs like 'The Secret Czech Piano', 'The Week's Composer', and 'The Archers'.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'bridge aims tract smen' and 'DAVID MILLER Chief Sports Correspondent'.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'DAVID MILLER Chief Sports Correspondent'.

